

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08669 171521Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11
/111 W

-----027076 180047Z /65

R 171516Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6857

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS CAIRO 08669

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EG

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN IMPORT POLICY

REF: CAIRO 8197

1. MINTRADE UNDERSECRETARY AHMAD WAFAL-DIN PROVIDED US DETAILS OF NEW IMPORT RESTRICTIONS REPORTED REFTEL. ACCORDING HIM, NEW POLICY DESIGNED TO FURTHER ASSURE RATIONAL ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE STRICTLY "PROTECTIVE" IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE PARLANCE. MINTRADE DISCOVERED THAT FOREIGN EXCHANGE BEING EXPENDED FOR IMPORTS OF MANY ITEMS WHICH WERE ALREADY AVAILABLE IN EGYPT EITHER BECAUSE THEY ARE LOCALLY PRODUCED OR BECAUSE STATE TRADING COMPANIES HAVE LARGE STOCKS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS.

2. GOE HAS DRAWN UP LIST OF MORE THAN EIGHTY COMMODITIES FOR WHICH LICENSES WILL NOW BE REQUIRED. BEFORE GRANTING LICENSE, SEPARATE INTER-MINISTERIAL WATCHDOG COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY WILL MAKE JUDGMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 08669 171521Z

COMMODITY IN EGYPT. COMMITTEE WILL HAVE POWER TO ADD AND REMOVE ITEMS FROM LIST AS STOCKS CHANGE. INITIAL REPORTS ARE THAT LIST WILL BE UPDATED MONTHLY. PUBLIC SECTOR COMPANIES AND IMPORTING AGENCIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE COMMITTEE WITH INFORMATION ON GOODS IN STOCK; IF THESE COMPANIES DO NOT SUBMIT STOCK REPORTS, COMMITTEE WILL ISSUE LICENSE FOR IMPORT OF SIMILAR GOODS. ACCORD-

ING PRESS REPORTS, BANKS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO ISSUE LETTERS OF CREDIT FOR COMMODITIES ON LIST WITHOUT PRESENTATION OF LICENSE.

3. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF SAMPLING OF COMMODITIES FOR WHICH IMPORT LICENSES REQUIRED BASED ON OUR INFORMAL TRANSLATION (COMPLETE LIST BEING FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM):
TELEPHONE CABLES, AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS,
LOCOMOTIVE ENGINES, IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE PUMPS,
ARTIFICIAL LEATHER, PLASTIC CONTAINERS, PERFUMES,
COSMETICS, TOOTH PASTE, CORRUGATED CARDBOARD BOXES AND TEXTILES.

4. COMMENT: NEW POLICY SEEMS BE EARNEST ATTEMPT TO CONTROL IMPORTS WITHIN AVAILABLE EXCHANGE LIMITS. NEW SYSTEM APPARENTLY WILL APPLY TO IMPORTS OF GOODS THROUGH PARALLEL MARKET, AS WELL AS UNDER "OWN CURRENCY" SYSTEM. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Reason:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: ETRD, EG
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